**President.**—For the introduction of Bills notice must be given. If the notice is not given, the Bill will not be included in the agenda.

## The Cochin Kole Cultivation Bill.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—I move that the Cochin *Kole* Cultivation Bill be read in Council.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—I second it.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—In order to give the Council an idea of what this *kole* cultivation is what I propose to do is to read a few extracts from the report of the Cochin *Kole* Committee and from the Cochin State Manual. "There are several fresh water lakes in the State of which the chief are the Enamakkal and the Manakkodi in the Trichur Taluk, the Muriyad in Mukundapuram and the Kattakampal in Talappalli. The first two are connected with each other, and have a combined area of over 25 square miles of which about 2½ square miles belong to the Malabar District. These two lakes, which are fed by the Karuvannur, Viyyur and Vadakkancheri rivers, channel out into the backwaters at two points —Enamakkal in the north and Chirakkal in the south—where bunds are put up to prevent the ingress of salt-water during the hot season. At the commencement of the hot weather, these lakes are drained by means of steam pumps and Persian wheels, and the whole bed is cultivated with paddy. The Muriyad lake, which is much smaller in extent than the above, is fed by several small streams, and its surplus waters flow into the Karuvannur river during the monsoon months. It is also cultivated in the same manner as the Enamakkal lake. The Kattakampal is a large irregular lake, of which only a small portion lies in Cochin territory, the rest being in the District of Malabar." The most important is the Trichur—Enamakkal lake which is over 16,000 acres in extent of which 1,500 acres belong to British Malabar and the rest to Cochin.

Mr. Logan has given a full description of the nature of *kole* cultivation.

Mr. Logan says:—

"This Enamakkal lake deserves notice, if only for the singular struggle of human industry against the forces of nature which the cultivation of its bed demands. From the subsidence of the floods of one year to the commencement of the following rains the space of time is barely sufficient for the garnering of a crop. At the close of the rains the water in the lake, which is protected from tidal influences by a masonry dam at Enamakkal, is drained off by ceaseless labour, day and night, with Persian wheels aided not unfrequently now-a-days by patent pumps driven by portable steam-engines, whose fires glow

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weirdly across the waste of waters on dark nights, while the incessant throb and rattle of the engines and machinery strive hard to dispel any illusions. Every foot of ground that can be thus reclaimed is protected by fences of wattle and mud and is planted up with well-grown rice seedlings. Spaces are left between the fields, and into these channels the water drawn from the fields is poured, so that boats have to be employed for visiting the different fields, the dry beds of which lie some three or four feet below the level of the water in the canals. In the dry weather the lake presents a magnificent level green expanse of the most luxuriant growing rice, the pleasant effect of which to the eye is heightened by contrast with the snowy plumage of the innumerable cranes and other aquatic birds which here revel in a continual feast. With the early thunder harbingers of the southwest monsoon in April recommences the struggle with the slowly but steadily rising flood. Numberless Persian wheels bristle in their bamboo frame-works for the contest with the threatening floods, and as the season advances thousands of the population, many of them good caste Nayar women, are perched high above the scene on these machines, continuing the day and night struggle with the rising floods for the preservation of the ripening crops. The bulwarks of the fields are frequently breached and the unmatured crop drowned. Often a large area has to be reaped by simply heading the stalks from boats; but, as a rule, an enormously rich crop rewards this remarkable industry." The Muriyad in Mukundapuram and the Kattakampal lake in Talappalli are cultivated in the same manner, but they are of much smaller extent.

All these give you an idea of what are the *kole* lands and how cultivation has been carried on. The Government of Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharia appointed a Committee under the Presidency of Mr. P. Damodara Menon, who was the acting Diwan Peishkar, to take evidence of all people interested in *kole* cultivation and to consider in a comprehensive way the existing drawbacks and to suggest all possible remedies thereto. This is a very exhaustive report and all the drawbacks are clearly stated and remedies are also suggested. A few passages from that report also will be useful for the discussion here.

"*Kole* lands are a unique feature of the West Coast and practically comprise the fresh water lakes of Malabar, Cochin and Travancore. When at the close of the north-east monsoon the hill streams cease to feed the lakes, the water of these lakes is drained away by mechanical contrivances and their bed is cultivated with paddy. This is what is meant by *kole* cultivation. In the Cochin State the most prominent of the lakes thus cultivated are Manakkodi and Enamakkal, situated in the Trichur

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Taluk. These, in fact, form one lake and they open out at two points, *viz.*, Enammavu in the north and Karanchira in the south."

**President.**—What they call Vadakkumkayal and Thekkumkayal?

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Yes. "Till comparatively recent years what are called Persian wheels were the sole means employed for draining the *kole* lands. Owing to the limited capacity of these wheels, little more than the shallow portions of these lakes could then be cultivated. So long as the area of operation remained thus restricted, the results were on the whole satisfactory. The expenses of cultivation were very much less than what they are now. Drought, which is now one of the chief causes of failure, was then unknown as the uncultivated portions of the lake served as a reservior from which water for irrigating the crops could be drawn in times of need. The advent of steam and oil engines, however, revolutionised the system of cultivation, because they considerably facilitated the draining of the lands. People were not slow to avail themselves of this advantage. The Government also helped forward this enterprise by freely giving away the lands on easy terms of assessment. Thus fresh portions of the lake came to be rapidly taken up and reclaimed, until, by the close of the year 1068, very little of the lake was left un-cultivated. Any one visiting these lands when under cultivation—divided into plots of varying size by long lines of huge mud and wattle walls—cannot fail to be struck with the ingenuity of the people as well as the industry and expenditure involved in their improvements. Judged by the result, however, this expansion of the *kole* cultivation has not been an unmixed blessing either to the cultivator or to the general public. It is easy to realise why this is so, when we remember that, if the whole area has to be cultivated, all the water in the lake, except a very small quantity which could be retained in the *poramboke chals*, has to be drained out into the sea through the Enamakkal bund, and there is no source from which water could be had for irrigating the crop. The water that is retained in the *poramboke chals* is quite insufficient for purposes of irrigation during the hot months. The result is that successful harvest, as matters now stand, has to depend entirely upon such a precarious and uncertain factor as timely rains in sufficient quantities in the dry months of March, April and May. Late cultivation, brought about by a variety of causes, also results in the failure of crops by flood due to the bursting of the south-west monsoon before the crops are harvested. The recurring charges of cultivation are heavy, amounting, as they do, to over 6 lakhs of rupees every year. Permanent assessment of

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these lands at the time of the last Revenue Settlement made the cultivation of every holding in a way obligatory. The yield from most lands in many a year does not leave any margin even for the payment of assessment after meeting the expenses of cultivation. A succession of bad seasons during the last few years has borne the cultivator down and there is increasing indebtedness among the general body of *kole* cultivators. The situation calls for the adoption of remedial measures of a really helpful character."

Then the Committee goes on reciting the existing drawbacks of *kole* cultivation which according to them are:—" (i) failure of crops on account of droughts, (ii) failure of crops by flood due to the bursting of the south-west monsoon before the crops are harvested, and (iii) difficulty to get at reasonable prices bamboos and other meterials necesssary for the successful carrying out of *kole* cultivation."

Each of these causes is again sub-divided into several minor causes and they say—I Drought. That is due to the following two main causes:—

(a) Scarcity of water for irrigating the crops during the summer months.

(b) Late cultivation.

Each of these main causes is again due to a variety of other causes:—

I. (A) Scarcity of water for irrigating the crops is due to the following causes:—

1. The cultivation of all *kole* lands and the consequent draining out to the sea of the whole water except a very small quantity that is retained in the *poramboke chals* without making any provision for the supply of water for irrigation purposes.

2. The cultivation of these *kole* lands in big *padavus* and the consequent blocking up of the major portion of the *poramboke chals*.

3. The shallow nature of the existing *poramboke chals* which prevents the retention of any appreciable quantity of water even in the available *poramboke chals* for irrigation purposes.

4. Want of occasional rains during the summer months.

I. (B) Late cultivation, which results in failure of crops, both on account of drought and on account of flood due to the bursting of the monsoon before the crops are harvested, is again due to the following causes:—

1. Difficulty to get engines in time for bailing out water for purposes of cultivation.

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2. Want of union among the several cultivators of land in the same *padavu* which prevents them from commencing the agricultural operations at the proper time.

3. The high level of the water at the time of cultivation making the agricultural operations more risky and expensive.

II. Failure of crops by flood is due to the following main causes:—

(a) Untimely and late cultivation.

(b) Early monsoon."

Then the Committee discusses the evidence they have collected and comes to specific conclusions. I do not propose to read their discussion of the evidence, but I will read only their conclusions.

They say: "The evidence given by these witnesses and the reasons which prompted them to give that evidence will be discussed more fully when we consider the question of possible remedies for the existing drawbacks. In these circumstances, the Committee does not feel the slightest hesitation to say that cultivation of the whole area without leaving any portion fallow for the storage of water is one of the main causes of the failure of crops on account of drought."

Then they discuss the extent which has to be left fallow. "The next cause of the scarcity of water for irrigation purposes is the cultivation of these *kole* lands in big *padavus* and the consequent blocking up of the major portion of the *poramboke chals*. Until the year 1083 no *padavu* exceeded 400 acres. Since then there has been a tendency to enlarge the size by including in one block 2 or 3 *padavus*. This tendency has gone to such an extent that there has now come into being many a *padavu* measuring between 1,200 and 2,000 acres. The cultivation of these *kole* lands in such big *padavus* necessitates the blocking up of the intervening *poramboke chals* and consequently there is not even the possibility of retaining any water in such *poramboke chals* for irrigation purposes. The result is that crops fail almost completely on account of drought unless there are heavy showers of rain. Further, the bigger the *padavu*, the greater is the difficulty of the owners of *punja* lands adjoining the *padavu* to take advantage of the little water that may rarely be found in the distant *chals* beyond the outer bunds of the *padavu*."

Then they discuss the difficulty on account of want of sufficient engine for bailing out water. "One of the chief causes of late cultivation is the want of sufficient number of engines for bailing out water. The proper time for commencing the *kole* cultivation is about the 10th Dhanu, and it should be completed by the end of Makaram. The proper time for sowing the seed

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as spoken to by all the witnesses who have been questioned on this point, is Thiruvona Njattuvela which covers the period of 14 days between the 5th and 25th Makaram. If cultivation is not done in time, in addition to drought there is also the possibility of the failure of crops due to flood on account of the south-west monsoon which generally sets in after the 15th Edavam. For want of sufficient number of engines some of the cultivators find it difficult to begin the agricultural operations in time."

Then want of union among the cultivators is another ground. This is the observation with regard to that part of the subject:— "The next cause of late cultivation is want of combination among the cultivators of lands included in the same *padavu*. In order to correctly understand and appreciate the difficulties arising in the matter of cultivation on account of this, it is necessary to state a little more in detail how *kole* cultivation is carried on". My Bill makes provision to remove this difficulty. "Unlike other paddy lands each owner cannot by himself cultivate his *kole* lands unless he owns the whole area included in the *padavu*. For the cultivation of *kole* lands the whole area included in one *padavu* must be protected on all sides by strong bunds. The expenses of *kole* cultivation are so high that, unless lands covering an extent of at least two or three thousand *paras* are included in one *padavu*, the cost of cultivation may even exceed the amount realised by the sale of paddy harvested from those lands. To economise the expenditure, as far as possible, lands to the extent of 300 or 400 acres comprising a number of holdings belonging to different individuals are ordinarily included in one *padavu*. The length of the bund to be put up by each individual and the cost which he has to pay towards bailing charges will depend upon the extent of the lands possessed by him in the *padavu*. A leading cultivator in the *padavu* ordinarily undertakes to make all arrangements to get down engines, etc., for bailing water. Before commencing the work of draining out water, the bunds on all sides of the *padavu* have to be put in order, and the understanding is that each cultivator should construct the extent of the bunds which falls to his share sufficiently early so as not to cause an delay for commencing pumping operations in time.

"There is great complaint now that this work of putting up the bunds is not attended to promptly by several of the cultivators, thereby delaying the cultivation and jeopardising the result, or, as it sometimes happens, a total abandonment of the *padavu* for the season. The cost of bailing out water is not also paid by some of the cultivators in time, thereby necessitating the institution of suits for the recovery of the amounts. Sometimes to avoid the non-cultivation of the whole *padavu*, the work of putting

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up bunds which, falls to the share of the defaulters has to be undertaken by the leading cultivator. To realise the amount spent by him for the purpose he has to sue the defaulters. This is spoken to by many of the witnesses examined by the Committee. It is also within the personal expereince of some of the members of the Committee. In view of the great inconvenience and loss arising from this lack of co-operation among the cultivators, the Committee feels no hesitation to say that the matter is sufficiently serious to demand Government intervention. The nature and extent of the intervention necessary in the matter will be discussed when the question of remedies is considered."

Then I will read the remedies suggested by the Committee. First they deal with the diversion of the Chalakkudi river, but it is not necessary for the purpose of this Bill. Then they suggest certain remedies, *viz.*, "the introduction of a system of cultivation by rotation whereby a portion of the area can be left uncultivated every year for the storage of water", etc. That subject is discussed at great length, and then the Committee comes to the conclusion "in these circumstances, we, the majority of the Committee, have not the slightest hesitation in recommending to the Government that they should insist upon this cultivation by rotation until a permanent irrigation scheme to serve these lands is successfully organised."

Then with regard to cultivation in small *padavus*, they say:— "Cultivation in small *padavus* will also be of considerable help to prevent drought. The enlargement of the size of the *padavus* necessitates, as has been already stated, the blocking up of the intervening *poramboke chals*. This prevents the retention in these *chals* of the water which might otherwise have been stored there for irrigation purposes. The only advantage of cultivation in big blocks is that it reduces to some extent the length of the bund to be annually maintained by each of the cultivators. Consequently there will be a small reduction in the annual recurring charges of cultivation; this reduction in expenditure is very insignificant when we consider the great loss which may be sustained by failure of crops on account of drought by such cultivation. We do not think it necessary to discuss this question any further, since all the members of the Committee have ultimately agreed that it is necessary to reduce the size of the padavu as far as possible. We are of opinion that the maximum size of a *padavu* should not exceed 500 acres except in cases where the reduction of the size of the *padavu* to such an extent would necessitate the putting up of new bunds at enormous expenditure. The Government can very easily stop cultivation in big blocks by refusing permission to block up *poramboke chals*."

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The Committee goes on stating the necessity of diverting water for irrigation purposes by improving *chiras* and then the improvement of the canals system by the Government is suggested. The summary of their recommendations is in para 34, namely:—

"1. The investigation of the scheme of diverting the Chalakkudi river for the purpose of irrigating the *kole* lands.

2. If the above scheme is found not feasible, the investigation of the scheme of pumping up and storing the water of these *kole* lands at the time of cultivation in the adjacent *Mundakan* and *Viruppu* lands for being subsequently used for irrigation purposes.

3. The improvement of the canal system generally by deepening and widening in places where such improvements are found necessary.

4. The lending of money by Government through Co-operative Credit Societies started for the purpose of purchasing steam and oil engines necessary for bailing out water after making adequate provision for the supply of water for irrigation purposes either by the introduction of a permanent scheme or by leaving a certain portion of the area fallow for the storage of water.

5. The issuing of a proclamation prescribing proper penalty for the delay of default committed by the cultivators of lands included in the same *padavu* in not putting up the necessary bunds, etc., sufficiently early, so that it may be possible to begin the pumping operation in time.

6. Lowering the granite bed of the Enamakkal bund to reduce the level of the water at the time of cultivation. This is to be carried out only after the introduction of a *permanent irrigation scheme*.

As the investigation of schemes 1 and 2 may take some time, immediate arrangements may be made to carry out the following temporary remedies:—

7. The introduction of a system of cultivation by rotation whereby a fourth of the total area is to be left uncultivated every year for the storage of water.

8. The cultivation of these lands in small *padavus*, each *padavu* not exceeding 500 acres except under special circumstances referred to in para 26 of the report.

9. The diversion of water for irrigation purposes (1) by improving the existing Kottankat Valavu *chira*, (2) by deepening the Chirakkal canal, and (3) by putting up a new *chira* above Nandipulam in Kurumali river if the Government consider it necessary to make a further investigation of this proposal."

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Then I will read their conclusion. "The subject of removing the drawbacks of *kole* cultivation has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time past. Representation after representation has been made to them complaining of these drawbacks. Though the Government have been considering this question, no serious attempt appears to have been made to remedy these defects. Matters have now reached such a stage that the adoption of immediate measures to remedy these defects has become absolutely necessary. We are extremely glad that the Government have realised the situation and have appointed this Committee to investigate and report on the existing drawbacks and the possible remedies thereto. On behalf of the general body of the *kole* owners and cultivators, the Committee begs to offer its respectful thanks to the Government for the opportunity thus afforded to them for explaining these grievances in detail. The Committee may now be permitted to express the hope that the Government will, at an early date, be pleased to take steps to carry out the recommendations now made and thus ensure the success of a system of cultivation with which the economic prosperity of the State is so closely intertwined."

**President.**—What is the date of the report?

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—The Committee was appointed in 1095 and the report was submitted in 1096.

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—Orders were passed in 1921.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—There is a separate minute by Mr. Kodankandath Kunjippalu Lona who is the most successful cultivator so far as the *kole* lands are concerned, and his opinion has to be respected in this matter to a large extent. He differs from certain conclusions of the Committee. But, so far as the purpose of my Bill is concerned, he is very positive He says: "In addition to the above, I have to observe that the subject of Government intervention to preserve and maintain union and co-operation among the *kole* cultivators should be given the greatest importance, because upon it mainly depends the success of *kole* cultivation. Diwan Govinda Menon's Notification of 1884 will not do to meet our present requirements. The proposed Royal Proclamation should contain clear provisions for enforcing timely cultivation of *padavus*, collection of dues without resorting to Civil Courts and for checking the collection of exorbitant charges. I may also, in conclusion, add that the whole subject of the improvement of *kole* cultivation should be viewed by Government with that thoroughness, large-heartedness, impartiality and sympathy which it deserves which are so characteristic of our present administration".

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The attempt of this Bill is to give effect to some of these humble recommendations of the Committee, and what I propose to do is only to explain the main provisions of my Bill.

Section 3 of the Bill proposes to appoint a Kole Committee to be in charge of particular areas to be selected by Government, the members of which are to be the Diwan Peishkar, the Chief Engineer, the Superintendent of Agriculture and two *pattadars* of *kole* lands. In order to give no room for trouble that the *pattadars* may fight between themselves, I propose to give the majority to the Government.

**President.**—This Committee is for the whole of the *kole* lands ?

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—There will be different Committees for different areas to be decided by the Government, as one Committee will not be able to control the whole extent. What I propose to do is to give the Government the power to select the jurisdictional areas which can be correctly managed by one Committe e

**President.**—But these Government members are to be members of all the Committees?

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Yes. Then, section 4 is to the effect that a *padavu* of more than 500 acres shall not exist without the consent of the Kole Committee. One of the strongest recommendations of the Kole Committee is that there should not be a *padavu* which was more than 500 acres, and I want to give effect to that by this section.

Then, section 5 is to allow a fourth of the area to lie fallow. Upon this matter there is some difference of opinion among *kole* cultivators themselves. If, after going into a select committee, it is found that provision is so very controversial, it can be omitted. It is one of the specific recommendations of the majority of the Kole Committee. And as such I thought it advisable to incorporate it in the Bill.

Then, section 6 is to prevent the disadvantages arising from late cultivation. Generally there would be several owners in the same *padavu*, and if one man is not ready to start cultivation, all the others have to wait until that particular individual becomes ready, and generally everybody has to wait. The Committee is given the power to carry on the timely cultivation without waiting and to realise the amounts due as per the share of each individual for the cultivation expenses.

**President.**—That is with regard to the putting up of bunds.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Pumping also.

Then, section 7 gives the Committee the right of suit, and section 8 the right to acquire property. The Committee can

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purchase engines and collect the bailing charges from the various owners. It is to enable that that section 9 is inserted.

Then, under section 10 *poramboke chals* will be in the charge of the particular Kole Committee of the area.

Under section 11 the Committee is given power to make rules and to carry out the provisions, and under section 12 the Government is given power to make by-laws to carry out the provisions of the Regulation.

Under section 13 if the Committee is thought to be very complicated, the Diwan Peishkar is given power to exercise all or any of the powers given to Kole Committees.

These are the main sections. Since this is an original Bill I feel the draft may require improvements in several matters, and the whole Bill can be improved if this motion is carried and a select committee consisting of Members who are cognisant of this subject which I will propose to be selected.

The subject of *kole* cultivation is one of the most interesting and difficult agricultural problems facing the actual cultivators of the soil in Cochin, and it has a permanent economic effect on the lives of the people of Cochin. We are depending on foreign market for our staple food, and a solution of the problem of *kole* cultivation will give relief to this to some extent. Finding no attempt is made by the Government to relieve the difficulties of *kole* cultivation, an attempt is made to introduce *Kuttadan* cultivation on the outskirts of *kole* lands. The expert opinion is *Kuttadan* is a failure, and even if successful, it can be cultivated only on the outskirts. The problems and difficulties adumbrated by the Kole Committee of 1095 still remain unsolved, and this Bill is an attempt to tackle the problem. I pray that this motion be allowed.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—Sir, before adverting to some of the provisions of this Bill, it will be worth-while to state how the system of *kole* cultivation is carried on. The report is not sufficiently clear regarding this. Now *kole* lands extend to an area of 14 thousand acres which are divided into several blocks, and for each block there may be several land-owners owning small pieces of land.

**President.**—You refer to the *kole* lands in Trichur alone?

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—Yes. But in other parts also it is like that. This Bill is particularly intended to create union among all the *kole* owners who do not organise themselves to cultivate the lands at the proper season. Since each block comprises of several pieces of lands owned by different land-owners, it is impossible to have co-operation of all of them at the same time for the erecting of bunds, pumping operations, etc. This is primarily the reason why late cultivation occurs in these parts.

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I may preface my remarks with this that any amount of legislation will not cure this difficulty that underlies the system of cultivation of these *kole* lands. As was read from the report of Mr. Logan, we are fighting against natural forces over which we have no control and upon which the Government do not take any interest whatsoever to combat those evils. The Committee's recommendations were submitted to the Government as long ago as 1095, and the Government was absolutely callous to see that proper arrangements are made for the irrigation of these *kole* lands. The primary defect lies in the scarcity of water at the time when it is needed and the existence of superfluous water at the time when it is not needed. In the beginning of *kole* cultivation you will see all these channels in *kole* lands flooded and all the bunds taken away when early monsoon breaks against these bunds. At that time water is not needed, and the Enamakkal Dam and the Chirakkal canal are not sufficient to drive away the water which is not needed at the time of the beginning of *kole* cultivation. Then it is in Medam that the harvesting season comes, and at that time we see a sad spectacle of these lands bleaching by drought, and we are not able to get a drop of water even if we spend any amount of money to carry water from distant places. In spite of this sad spectacle which would elicit sympathy from the staunchest heart, the Government was sitting leisurely and collecting taxes very rigorously. I would request the Government to take immediate steps to find out water for these *kole* lands for two or three months at the time when it is really needed.

I do not wish to refer to the difficulties which underlie the system of cultivation as they have been sufficiently read to this Council. I will examine the provisions of this Bill, one by one, and see whether they are acceptable to us.

As I said before, this Regulation is primarily intended to create co-operation and union among the *kole* owners, so that they may be better organised and there may not be late cultivation. I refer to section 3 which says that a Kole Committee has to be constituted. I was in doubt whether it is one Kole Committee or whether sub-committees can be constituted under that Committee. As the Member just now stated that the section includes the appointment of sub-committees under that committee, I do not take any objection.

**President.**—Not under. Independent Kole Committees. That is his position.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—One Kole Committee will not be able to supervise all these in detail. But I am not for giving the official side a majority. Other *pattadars* also can be made members of the Committee. If the *kole* cultivation is to be

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better managed and supervised, more than 2 *pattadars* will be needed as members of this Committee. The Committee report also recommends that a *padavu* should not exceed 500 acres. As a matter of fact these several blocks of land here do not generally exceed 500 acres, and if I remember right, there is only one like that. And if you are going to reduce these to 500 acres, it will be practically impossible to erect new bunds which may be washed off by flood. The bunds now erected have been longstanding, and they are permanently fixed to the lands.

I think this provision may not be necessary in view of the division of these lands into blocks. The fifth section states that certain blocks, *i. e.*, at least one-fourth of the *kole* lands be left fallow. The generality of the *kole* owners do not subscribe to that view. It is mainly due to two reasons. That is the Government does not relax its policy of collecting tax from them even if they do not cultivate, and also on the second ground that those *kole* owners intend making some profits out of these *kole* lands. Here it is specifically pointed out that no compensation shall be given. That would look monstrous in the eyes of the *kole* owners who will be compelled to pay their dues to the Government. As to section 6 I subscribe to the view that there should be a salutary provision, so that union can be engendered among these *kole* owners. Generally there is a lot of trouble arising during the time of cultivation, and disagreement among *kole* owners occurs very often as to the responsibility of putting bunds, bailing out and collecting water. But there may be some people who are not so very subservient to these demands and so many disputes arise, and people may, therefore, have to go to Civil Courts for redress. I think once such a suit was dismissed by the Trichur District Court on the ground that it was unsustainable. Consequently so many people, who had taken real interest in the matter, were deprived of their due share of the profits or actual money invested. It would be good to introduce this provision, so that an equal distribution of the expenditure among the *kole* land-owners may be had and also to avoid so many suits that are now pending in Civil Courts. I do not exactly understand the sequence of section 7, wherein the Hon'ble Member has stated that the body corporate shall have a perpetual succession. I believe, if I am correct, it means that the officials who are in the Committee may have a perpetual succession, but in the case of elected members I do not think it is advisable to give them perpetual succession.

**President.**—It is the Committee and not individual members. You will see that it has a common seal, and so it is

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understood as a corporate body and not individual members. It is to be a permanent institution.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—If so I have no dispute. Again section 10. The literature on that, I think, is really very heavy. There are a number of disputes arising every year as to the blocking of these *poramboke chals*. To have a proper answer from the Government side to this question is very difficult. The Government is so very indifferent to send any reply to the petitions in time. Hence these people are really put into great hardships.

**President.**—What is the point?

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—We have two schedules, A and B. *Chals* of the A schedule should not be blocked, and with the permission of the Government, *chals* of the B schedule can be blocked. To obtain the sanction of the Government to block the *chals* of the B schedule it is really difficult. These *kole* owners have applied a number of times, and they have been waiting for a reply, and the Government have not cared to give the necessary sanction at the proper time.

**President.**—It is a matter depending entirely on the Diwan Peishkar.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—As yet no complaint has reached me.

**President.**—Generally they put up the bund and ask for formal sanction, and it is granted as usual. Can you quote specific instances?

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—In Alappad there were several instances.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—Very recently I visited Alappad and no complaint was brought to my notice.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—Yes. I know very recently.

**President.**—Generally the bund is constructed in anticipation of sanction, and the Government do not take any drastic steps, but in vital instances let them away with small fines.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—To-morrow I can remove a bund and flood the whole areas for ten thousand *paras* of land. I saw that section empowering the Diwan Peishkar even to effect that when I went through the rules. But of course on account of the hardships I leave it there.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—On account of all sorts of delay impediments arise in the *kole* cultivation. These *chals* connect the adjoining *kole* lands with another block.

**President.**—The technical term for that is *Edaida*.

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**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—If prompt steps are taken in this direction, cultivation can be facilitated. There is also another complaint that the adjoining land-owners are raising crops on the sides of the *chals*.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—These are not general complaints. They only occur here and there.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—This is done by the Pulayas and Parayas working in these fields. Again I anticipate an objection from the Government side very often raised on the floor of this House, that the owners of these *kole* lands by cultivating *Kuttaaams* are really prospering in recent times. I submit this is an illusion without any basis. We have been experimenting on it in several places, and the yield we get is really poor. It is really true that the initial expenditure involved in this *Kuttadam* cultivation is very small. The primary reasons for its failure are the following. Now it is a very dangerous kind of cultivation. In some places there may be a good yield. If *Kuttadam* is cultivated in these lands, and we get early monsoon, all these seeds will be washed away.

**President.**—Generally *Kuttadam* is cultivated in the months of Meenam or Medam when the soil is dry. As soon as we get early monsoon, the seeds sprout, and it would not be affected by the floods. Then there is a difficulty in the time of the harvest season, but there is no difficulty of water.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—There is no water when the *Kuttadam* is sown. Then how can it sprout and take root to stand the early heavy monsoon? The result is that the seeds are washed away.

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—*Kuttadam* is generally sown in Meenam.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—If the monsoon begins early, then the *kole* lands are also affected.

**President.**—There is a general impression that *Kuttadam* comes to the rescue of *kole* cultivators.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—It is a matter worth investigation. Mr. Cheloor Nambudiri, while I had been to the *kole* lands, told me that the *Kuttadam* cultivation was successful.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—I may submit here that *Kuttadam*, though successful in high lands, is not successful in deep lands.

**President.**—It may be true that the turn-out was very unsatisfactory.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Mr. Cheloor Nambudiri did not reap the harvest. He got 2,000 *paras* of paddy where he ought to get 20,000 *paras* of paddy.

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—He has himself told me that *Kuttadam* is a very good success.

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**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Sir, it is not so. If necessary, I shall take you to these places.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—Another reason for the reduction of the yield is due to the damages done to crops by rats and fishes and by heavy flood.

**President.**—There is also a certain kind of *puzhu*. They are known in English as pests.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—On the whole the *Kuttadam* cultivation has not been a success. That has been the experience in the past. I may remark that objection may be taken by the official benches either to avoid this Bill or to avoid permanent irrigation works being taken. And the urgent necessity for irrigation, I am afraid, is not felt by the Members of the Council so much as we do.

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—Is the Hon'ble Member opposing the Bill or supporting the Bill ?

**President.**—He has seconded the Bill, but he has objections to certain provisions in the Bill. Then the only question is whether by legislation we can bring co-operation. Co-operation can really be had if this Bill is passed.

**Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.**—I am not opposing the Bill. I am only making certain suggestions which are to be discussed by the Select Committee. I think I can discuss all the provisions of this Bill, even though all the defects cannot be cured by this legislation. I ask the permission of the Chair that immediate steps may be taken to relieve the distress of the *kole* owners by the supply of proper irrigation systems to these lands for which we are ready to pay handsomely to the Government, and in spite of proposals to advance amounts towards that, the Government has been so unwilling to take any steps to supply water which was a long-felt necessity in these parts. With these remarks I endorse my views to the Bill.

**Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.**—The chief difficulty with respect to this kind of cultivation is the want of co-operation among the cultivators. Co-operation is necessary with respect to the putting up of bunds and in bailing out water and in reserving a portion of the land for the purpose of storing water. It is mostly in these respects that co-operation is necessary among cultivators and for this purpose some sort of legislation is necessary. If the majority of the proprietors in a certain *Puncha* land want to cultivate the land, as matters stand at present, the minority can successfully obstruct them by not putting up their own bunds or by not bailing out water. So the majority have to be protected by some sort of legislation or other. So the only question is whether the proposed piece of

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legislation would be adequate for the purpose. My humble submission is that this is entirely inadequate. The proposal to have several Kole Committees composed of 3 official Members and two non-official Members, the three official Members being common in all the Committees does not appear to be practical or feasible. Sir, by this piece of legislation the mover of this Bill only wants to have a Kole Committee constituted; the whole working of the Committee is to be regulated by the rules framed hereafter. As to what is the source for the money required, would be the next item for consideration. There is no clue whatsoever in the Bill as to how they can get the necessary funds. There is absolutely nothing mentioned in the Bill.

**President.**—They are authorised to acquire properties in their own name.

**Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.**—The Diwan Peishkar cannot be expected to contribute something out of his own pocket.

Now the problem is not confined, according to me, to the *kole* lands alone. There are many irrigation works to be started. Now irrigation implies drainage also. The necessity for a piece of legislation with respect to irrigation, I believe, will be admitted on all hands, not only to *kole* lands but with respect to lands in the interior also. Many paddy lands can be made double-crop lands by the proper drainage of water. With respect to all these matters some sort of legislation would be necessary. In Travancore we have got a large extent of lands similar to these *kole* lands.

**President.**—They are known as *Punja* lands. There you don't suffer for want of water.

**Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.**—There is excess of water. Water has to be bailed out and ring-bunds have to be constructed, but the principles are the same. It requires the co-operation of all the proprietors of the land.

**President.**—But then you don't want to depend upon water, because, by the time the harvest is over, all the engines are released. So that in Travancore the whole thing is over by the time we start cultivation.

**Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.**—From the time cultivation begins to the time of the harvest, engines will have to work. The *Punja* cultivation requires the co-operation of the cultivators. Now there is a Regulation called the Irrigation Regulation in Travancore. The provisions of that Regulation, with the necessary changes, may be introduced here. I think it will solve the whole problem and that it will be very useful to our *kole* lands.

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മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ് പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—ഇവിടെ കോൾകൃഷി യെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു ബിൽ പാസ്സാക്കുന്നതിനായി: ഹാജരാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതു് വായിച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽ അതിൽപറയുന്ന മിക്കസംശതികളും ഇപ്പോൾ കോൾകൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്ന ചിറവലപ്പിള്ളിക്കായലിനു ഗുണകരമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലെന്നു കാണാം.

പ്രസിഡണ്ടു്.—അതു ഏതു കായലിലാണു്? തെക്കൻ കായലിലാണൊ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പ് പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—വടക്കൻ കായലിലാണു്. അതായതു് മുള്ളൂർക്കായലിൽ. ചിലഭാഗങ്ങൾ ബില്ലിൽ പറയുന്ന പ്രകാരം മാറുന്നതായാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കോൾകൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കു് വളരെ നഷ്ടം വരുന്നതാണു്. അല്ലാതെ ലാഭം ഉണ്ടാകത്തക്കതായി യാതൊന്നും ഞാൻ ഈ ബില്ലിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. കോൾകൃഷിക്കു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് എന്തെങ്കിലും ഗുണം ചെയ്യുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ബില്ലുകൊണ്ടൊന്നും കാര്യം നടക്കുകയില്ല. പിന്നെ യാതൊരു പരിമയും വന്നുചേരാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നിടങ്ങളിൽ വർഷക്കാലത്തു് പരിമ വന്നുചേരത്തക്കവണ്ണം പുഴകൾ വലുതാക്കി അവയുടെ ഒഴുക്കിനു രേഖതിരുത്തുകയും അവ ഒലിച്ചുപൊയ്ക്കളയാതിരിപ്പാൻ വേണ്ട ഏറ്റിപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്യുകയും ഉണക്കുകാലത്തു് വെള്ളം കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള വല്ല നടപടിയും നടത്തുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന ഏകമാർഗ്ഗമല്ലാതെ വേറൊരു വഴിയും പ്രായോഗികനിലയിൽ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു് ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തിലെ എഞ്ചിനീയർമാരെക്കൊണ്ടു് ഇതിൽ കൂടുതലായി കോൾകൃഷിക്കു് ഗുണകരമായ മറ്റേതെങ്കിലും ഏർപ്പാടുചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു് എനിക്കു വിശ്വാസമില്ല. പിന്നെ ശീമയിൽനിന്നും വല്ലവരെയും വരുത്തിയാലത്തെ കഥ അറിയാനും പാടില്ല. ഞാൻ കുറെക്കൊല്ലമായി ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ കോൾകൃഷിയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കായി പാടുപണിമുഴുവനും പ്രയോഗിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. കോൾകൃഷികൊണ്ടു് മറിച്ചുതിരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരാളാണു് ഞാൻ. ജന്മിമാക്കാണെങ്കിൽ (പാട്ടയദാരന്മാർ) പാട്ടംകിട്ടേണ്ട ഏറ്റിപ്പാടുമാത്രമേയുള്ളു. അയ്യായിരം പറ മുതൽ ആയിരം പറ വരെ ഭൂമി കോൾകൃഷിക്കായി കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യുന്നവനാണു് ഞാൻ. അതുവെള്ളംകൊണ്ടു പോകാതിരിപ്പാനായി എന്റെ സ്വന്തം കൈയ്യിൽനിന്നും തോടുകൾത്തിച്ചും മറ്റുപലപ്രകാരത്തിൽ പ്രയത്നങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തും കോൾകൃഷിക്കായി പത്തിരുപതിനായിരം രൂപാ നശിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരുവനാണു് ഞാൻ. അനേഷിച്ചാലറിയാം. ഈ കൃഷിസൌകര്യത്തിനായി, ഇതിന്റെ രക്ഷയെക്കരുതി പാടുപണി മുഴുവനും ഫാൻ മുതൽ ഫിറ്റ് വരെ ഞാൻ പ്രയോഗിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതുകൂടാതെ ഞാൻ മുൻപറഞ്ഞ വഴികളല്ലാതെ മറ്റൊരു വഴിയും സാധ്യമായി കണ്ടിട്ടുമില്ല.

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പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—കോടങ്കണ്ടത്തു മിസ്റ്റർ ലോന ചിലപരി ശ്രമങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുണ്ടായില്ലെ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പു് പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—രണ്ടായിരം ഏക്കർ ഭൂമി മാടിക്കെട്ടി അതിൽനിന്നും ലാഭം ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഒരാളാണു് ആയാൾ. മിസ്റ്റർ ലോന പണിയുന്നപടവിൽ ക ഉ ഠ ഏക്ര ഭൂമി ഞാൻ തനിച്ചു മാടി വെള്ളം വാറിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിലും കൂടുതലായ നിരക്കിലാണു് ൨,൦൦൦ ഏക്ര ഒരുമിച്ചു പണിയുമ്പോൾ ചിലവു വരുന്നതു്. ഇനിക്കു ക ഉ ഠ ക. ക്കു വാറിക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിരുന്നതിനു ക ഉ ഠ ക. യ്ക്കാണു് മിസ്റ്റർ ലോന വാറിക്കുന്നതു്. അങ്ങിനെയാണു് ലാഭമെടുക്കുന്നതു്.

കോൾകൃഷിയെ നല്ല നിലയിലാക്കുന്നതിനു് പുറമെയുള്ള വല്ല സഹായങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുകയല്ലാതെ നിയമംകൊണ്ടൊന്നും ഗുണമുണ്ടാവുകയില്ല. ഈ നിയമത്തിൽ പറയുന്നതു് കമ്മറ്റി മെംബർമാർ പട്ടാരമ്മാർ ആയിരിക്കണമെന്നാണു്. അവർക്കു് കൃഷിയെപ്പറ്റി എന്തറിയാം? ഏതുമാസത്തിലാണു്, ഏപ്പോഴാണു് കൃഷിയിറക്കേണ്ടതെന്നു് അവരോടു ചോദിച്ചാൽ ഒന്നും പറയുവാൻ അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. അവരെയാണു് കമ്മറ്റിയംഗങ്ങളാക്കാൻ നിയമം ഉപദേശിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇവിടത്തെ സംസാരിച്ച മിക്ക സാമാജികന്മാരും കോൾകൃഷി ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതു് മീനത്തിലാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. കുംഭം ക ങ -ാംനാ-ക്കകം വിതച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ—മീനത്തിലേക്കു കടന്നാൽ—കൊയ്യുവാൻ ചെന്നാൽ ഒന്നും ഉണ്ടാവുകയില്ലെന്നെയുള്ളു. ഞാൻ ഇതിൽ തികച്ചും അനുഭവക്കാരനാണു്. എനിക്കു് അങ്ങിനെ ഒരിക്കൽ പറ്റുകയുമുണ്ടായി. (ചിരി)

ചേലൂർ നമ്പൂരിയുടെ കായ്ക്കത്തെപ്പറ്റി ചിലർ പറഞ്ഞു. അതൊഹത്തിനു വന്നദോഷം കൂട്ടാടൻ വിളഞ്ഞുകിടക്കുന്നസമയം കോളിലെ വെള്ളം വാറിച്ചു. യദൃച്ഛയാ മാട്ടംമുറിഞ്ഞ വെള്ളം വന്ന ചാഞ്ഞുകിടന്നിരുന്ന കതിരുകളെല്ലാം മൂടി. വെള്ളം വാറിക്കാതിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ വഞ്ചിയിട്ടുകൊയ്യാമായിരുന്നു. ഭാഗ്യത്തിന്ന എരണ്ടകളെല്ലാം ആയതിൽ പോയതിനാൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു എരണ്ടകേട ഇല്ലാതെകഴിഞ്ഞു.

എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ ഈ ബിൽകൊണ്ടു് യാതൊരു ഗുണവും കോൾകൃഷിക്കു് ഉണ്ടാകുവാനില്ല. ഏറ്റത്തിൽ വെള്ളം കടക്കാതെ ഇരിക്കുന്നതിനും ഇറക്കത്തിൽ പോകുന്നതിനും തക്കവണ്ണം ബണ്ടു് ഉറക്കുന്നതിനും അടക്കുന്നതിനും വേണ്ട സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയാണു് നിയമത്തെക്കാൾ പ്രയോജനകരം. അതൊരുവഴിമാത്രമെ കോളിനു ഗുണകരമായി ഞാൻ കാണുന്നുള്ളു. വെള്ളം വാറിക്കുന്നതിനു ചിലവു് കുറയും.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—അതിനു് എന്താണു് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പു പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—ബണ്ടിനു് ഒരു ഷട്ടർ വയ്ക്കണം. ഏറ്റത്തിൽ അടയണം. ഇറക്കത്തിൽ തുറക്കുകയും

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വേണം. അതിനുപക്ഷെ രണ്ടുപേർ കാത്തുനിൽക്കേണ്ടി വുമായിരിക്കാം. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്താൽ ഫർ അടിയിൽ കൂടുതൽ വെള്ളം വറ്റിക്കേണ്ടി വരികയില്ല.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—വെള്ളം വിട്ടുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽപ്പിന്നെ ആവശ്യത്തിനു വെള്ളം എങ്ങിനെകിട്ടും?

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പു പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—അതാണു് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്, അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കണമെന്നു്. ചാലക്കുടിപുഴയിലൊ മറ്റെവിടെയെങ്കിലുമൊ നിന്നു വെള്ളം കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ വഴിയുണ്ടൊയെന്നു് നല്ലവണ്ണം ആലോചിക്കണം. എനിക്കു ഓമ്മയുള്ള കാലംതുടങ്ങി ഇന്നു കൊല്ലത്തെ പരിചയം ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ സഭാവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—നിങ്ങൾക്കു് ഓമ്മ തുടങ്ങിയകാലത്തു് ഇത്രയധികം കോൾ കൃഷിയുണ്ടായിരുന്നൊ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പു് പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—ഇല്ല, ഇത്ര അധികം ചെയ്തിട്ടും ഫലമില്ല. നൂറു പറ കൃഷി ചെയ്താൽ ഒരു പറ കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്ന ഫലമുണ്ടാകുമെങ്കിൽ എന്തിനു മോഹം പിടിച്ചു ഒരു പറ കൃഷി ചെയ്യണം! കോൾകൃഷിയുടെ ലാഭവും നഷ്ടവും അറിയണമെങ്കിൽ പട്ടാരന്മാരെ നോക്കിയാൽ പോരാ. യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ കോൾ പണിയുന്ന ഒരു കൂട്ടരുണ്ടു്. അവരുടെ കുടുംബത്തിൽ അന്വേഷിക്കുക. അവരെല്ലാവരും ഇപ്പോൾ പണയമെഴുതിയിട്ടുണ്ടാകും കോൾ നിലങ്ങളിൽ തെങ്ങിന്റെ മുകളിൽ നിന്നു പണം കൊണ്ടുവന്നു കൊടുക്കാത്തവരുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ മാത്രമല്ലാതെ തീച്ചയായും മറ്റെല്ലാവരും പണയവും എഴുതിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—അപ്പോൾ കോൾകൃഷി നഷ്ടത്തിലാണൊ കലാശിക്കുന്നതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പു് പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—അതെ, സംശയമില്ല. ഓരോരുത്തർ ഇതു തന്നെ തരമെന്നു കരുതി സാധുക്കളുടെ പണം തട്ടിപ്പറിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—ഓരൊ ആളുകളെപ്പറ്റി പ്രത്യേകം പറയാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണല്ലൊ.

മിസ്റ്റർ ഔസേപ്പു് പി. കുണ്ടുകുളം.—പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു ചോദിക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടു് പറയുന്നതാണു്. അത്തരത്തിൽ ലാഭം കിട്ടുന്നതല്ലാതെ മറ്റു പ്രകാരത്തിൽ ലാഭം കിട്ടുന്നവരാരും ഇല്ലാ എന്നാണു് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം ഇപ്പോൾ വെള്ളം കയറ്റി നിറുത്തുന്ന ഒരു പദ്ധതിയുണ്ടു. അതു കൊണ്ടു് രക്ഷ കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതു കൊണ്ടൊന്നും ഉണക്കുകാലത്തു് ഉണക്കു തട്ടാറില്ല അതു് അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്താൻ ശ്രമിച്ചാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

ഏതായാലും ഇതിലേക്കു് ഒരു നിയമത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യം ഞാൻ കാണുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഞാൻ ഈ ബില്ലിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നു.

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**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—I rise to oppose this Bill, and in doing so I endorse every word of what the Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnathukavu said just now. The Bill also does not provide for the raising of *Kuttadam* crop on *kole* lands fitted for such cultivation. Of course the Member for Anthikkad referred to it and said that he found it a failure in the last two years. It is not a fact. To quote but one instance, let us look to the adjacent sides of Chettupuzha bund. I know from personal experience that *kole* land there is yielding thrice as much amount of paddy under *Kuttadam* cultivation than what was yielding when it was undergoing *kole* cultivation.

**Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—What is the exact yield?

**Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—It is enough to say thrice more. Why do you want to know the exact yield? There are some of these *kole* lands where the raising of the *Kuttadam* crop stand to the benefit of the owner, and unless some provision for this kind of cultivation is made in the Bill, it will go much to the detriment of some people. That is one side. Again, I feel the time has not yet come for legislating on *kole* cultivation and to force out co-operation from all the *pattadars* of a certain *padavu* to join in the *kole* cultivation. This forced co-operation also will work hardship. Which are the people who would not voluntarily join the *kole* cultivation when it is so much to their own advantage and benefit? Nobody will deliberately keep away and suffer any loss themselves to ruin the owners of other portions of the *kole* land. For these reasons I cannot subscribe to the passing of this Bill by this House.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Sir, I wish to add a few words to what has been said by the Hon'ble Members here on this subject. I wish to support this Bill. From what I know, the reasons given by those who objected the Bill are about the details contained in the Bill. I am afraid those Hon'ble Members who opposed this Bill have forgotten the fact that there is another opportunity for them to improve the Bill, that is, in the Select Committee stage. The scope of the discussion, so far as I know, at this stage is only to discuss the main principles of the Bill. I do not think that any of the Hon'ble Members who spoke before me and who opposed this Bill has opposed this Bill on principle. Their main grounds were that the provisions now incorporated in this Bill are not sufficient. They wanted some more changes, some additions and some subtractions here and there. The Hon'ble mover also stated that, being an original Bill, he was not able to anticipate all that would be found necessary, and that, if this Bill passes this stage, the necessary changes can be made in the Select Committee. As a matter of fact, I think that everybody concerned, including the Government,

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would concede that the previous investigation about this important subject took place about 9 years ago. There have been various changes in the method of *kole* cultivation during this period. In fact according to me it has never passed the experimental stage yet. They are now making experiments in the *Kuttadam* cultivation. It is only just begun. As regards the other matter we have progressed a little further. I don't think we have yet come to a stage from where we can definitely lay down certain conclusions on which we can proceed to cultivate the *kole* lands in future.

**President.**—I think the experiment of having the water in some waste *Mundakan* lands and letting down water in times of need was conducted and was found to be successful.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—My position is only this. We cannot say that the experiments tried so far have all been failures. I would respectfully submit that the experiment tried so far by storing of water in high regions was successful to a large extent. I would add that the *Kuttadam* cultivation has been successful in certain parts. It cannot be said that it was a success throughout wherever it had been tried. What I say is that it is time to take stock of what have been done so far and to get a comprehensive view. For that we want men who would take evidence on the matter and see how things are worked. The Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnathukavu said that such and such may be tried. He stated certain facts from his own experience. It may be true so far as that particular region of *kole* lands is concerned. It may not be true in the other parts. It is time for this House to appoint a Committee which will go into the whole question again and will formulate certain conclusions in the light of the experience gained in the last 9 years. If this Bill is referred to a Select Committee, that Committee will take evidence. That Committre can certainly say that the provisions contained in the Bill require change, and that some new provision ought to be introduced. As the Hon'ble Member for Cheruvirutti said, the Irrigation Bill of Travancore and other points can be considered by the Select Committee, and if any of the provisions are to be incorporated in this Bill it may be done. What I beg to state to this House is that it is premature to oppose this Bill now. It is better to pass this Bill and give it to a Select Committee who will take evidence and make the necessary changes. I, therefore, whole-heartedly support this Bill.

**President.**—Mr. Matthai, what about co operative societies for which there was a consultation with certain Nambudiries?

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**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—That was to bring about co-operative societies in *kole* lands. It was held out that it would be successful. We consulted. We did not hold a conference.

**President.**—That is not by legislation. But the difficulty is to make them co-operate.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—We wanted to bring them to discuss and persuade them. We asked Kirangat Nambudiri and Kurur Nambudiri.

**President.**—Cheloor Nambudiri also.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—There we did not talk it out.

**President.**—Our idea was one of co-operation for people themselves to work together instead of Government interfering.

**Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.**—By persuasion, not legislation.

**President.**—Any other Member wishing to speak ? There may be experts who have practical experience of *kole* cultivation. In the Talappalli Taluk there are experts of this *kole* cultivation. In Mukundapuram Taluk there are *kole* lands. Mr. Antony, you know nothing of this *kole* cultivation ?

**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—I know something of Muriyad.

**President.**—Why not give us the benefit of your experience?

**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—The storage of water in high level has been a successful attempt to so many of the Members. I do not want to take up the time of the House. The storing of water has been a successful thing there and I was also asked by the *pattadars* there to convey their best thanks to the Government.

**President.**—Anandapuram and Muriyad. That has been successful.

**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—So they anticipate the same thing will be conducted hereafter; but, however, they say it should be done earlier than is done now.

**President.**—There were considerable difficulties in transporting the engine. From Parayankadavu we had to take the engine. There was no way. Considerable difficulties were experienced to put up the bund.

**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—The only defect was it was started late. Had it been started earlier, so many acres of land could have been cultivated. Paddy could be sown only after two months this year, Kumbham seventh or eighth. If it is sown in Kumbham, 90 days' *Cheera* is sown. 90 days are to be taken up, and we can raise the crops only in the month of Edavam.

**President.**—Anyhow the line has been laid, and we know we are on sure ground. The only thing is, we are to start earlier. On the point of legislation what have you to say ?

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**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—I propose some kind of legislation is necessary. After it has been referred to a Select Committee, we shall have better discussion.

**President.**—You are for reference to the Select Committee. The Bill may be allowed to be introduced.

**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—The Bill may be introduced.

**President.**—All the details and controversial matters may be considered leisurely at a later stage.

**Mr. V. D. Ouseph.**—I wish to say a word or two. The Hon'ble Member for Kattur said that the Muriyad scheme was a success. Personally I know nothing about it. The other day when I went to Irinjalakkuda, some people came and complained to me about it. I want to say this much only. You should not go under the impression that there is no difference of opinion in the matter.

**Mr. A. L. Antony.**—It is personal.

**Mr. V. D. Ouseph.**—One of the most important persons in the locality came and complained to me. There were others also who said that two or three thousand rupees spent there was mere waste. That is what they said. I have no personal knowledge about it. They wanted to come here on deputation during this session to the authorities and explain matters. I asked them all to come. You should not, therefore, be under the impression that everybody thinks that it is a success. There is difference of opinion in the matter.

**President.**—I had a talk with the Superintendent of Agriculture, and in his opinion it has been a success.

**Mr. V. D. Ouseph.**—That is only one aspect of the question. There are those who say it is a failure. I have said that I have no personal knowledge in the matter. I want only to bring it to the notice of the House that there are those who regard it to be a failure.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—It is all the story of the elephant and the blind men.

**President.**—Don't you propose to say anything on this?

**Mr. V. D. Ouseph.**—So far as this legislation is concerned, I do not know how far it will be useful. So far as the economic importance of the Bill is concerned, I am of opinion that the Bill may go to the Select Committee. We may, after that, consider the question more elaborately.

**President.**—I think it is time for the Government to explain its position. Those that are thorough with the subject may explain all things connected with the subject.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—Government cannot see the necessity for the introduction at present of a legislation like this. Before leave can be given to introduce a Bill, it must

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be shown to the satisfaction of the House that a necessity exists for the legislation. For that purpose reference was made by the Hon'ble mover of the Bill to the report of the Kole Committee made in 1096. That report was made about 8 years ago. If we assume that the conditions stated in that report exist now, that there were no changes subsequent to that, then perhaps there may be grounds for a legislation. The two important points on which legislation is sought to be introduced are, as the Bill says, (i) storage of water to irrigate the lands when there will be hardly any water in the chanels and (ii) the enforcement of co-operation on unwilling *kole* cultivators. The second is a small matter. Generally we do not hear of many instances of want of co-operation. They will be but few in number, as everybody would like to have their fields dried as early as possible. The exceptions will be few. To meet such few exceptional cases, I do not think it proper to introduce legislation.

**President.**—Is it your point that, in the majority of cases, these *kole* owners also care to see that *kole* cultivation is carried on on right lines?

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—Generally so. Every general rule may have its exceptions. There may be persons who take a distorted view of things; who would like to see another man ruined.

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Not exactly that. Persons in the higher regions need not do anything. The man who owns lands in the lower region will have to bail water, and by doing that he will get advantage.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—That is a natural advantage. Why should he pump water when natural conditions will assist him?

**Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—It is not a natural advantage. As a result of the labour spent by the man in the lower region, the other man enjoys.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—That may be so. I don't mean to say that there will not be such cases. They will, however, be generally few. It is not definitely known whether the ordinary existing law will not be sufficient to deal with such cases. We have first of all to see whether the existing law and procedure are inadequate to give relief in cases of this sort.

**President.**—I experienced the difficulty. There is a large *padavu* in which several owners have interest, and they have to put up an outer bund to keep out water, and there are 10 owners, and 8 are willing to put their own bunds and 2 are not willing and will not help. They say "I will take my own time." What are we to do? I just put a concrete case. There are cases like this. All these owners have to join together and

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put up the bund. If the two fellows don't join, what should be done?

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—There may not be any such cases. Such cases will be rather few.

**President.**—Will it be possible that the other *kole* owners might put up the bund and recover the cost from him?

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—I am on the preliminary point.

**President.**—I put a case of difficulty.

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—The difficulty may be solved by a committee. Supposing a committee is appointed to go into this question, and if that committee suggests ways and means without legislation, why should there be legislation? Legislation should be the last resort. Unless there is dire necessity to legislate upon a particular thing, it should not be resorted to.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Courts have decided that no seeker might recover such amount. How is one owner to realise the amount?

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—I am not able to give you the answer now. The thing has to be threshed out by a properly appointed committee. I don't take the responsibility of suggesting a proper remedy.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I say we must find out. By giving up your case it must go to a Select Committee to be considered.

**President.**—The point is 8 years have elapsed and that report may be out of date. We shall have an up-to-date report. We shall resume our discussion after lunch.

(*The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and met again at 3 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.*)

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—Now, to continue the point on which I have been addressing this House. I have been asked the solution of certain practical difficulties. One is the difficulty of a recalcitrant *kole* owner coming within a *padavu* owned by several who is unwilling to do his portion of the work in time. It is said that there are decisions of courts which lay down that the other *kole* owners, who may be put to the necessity of draining the whole *padauu*, are not entitled to get contribution from the person who is unwilling to co-operate. I do not know whether it is the decision of the highest tribunal. I am also not in a position to say, and I dare say the House also does not now know, what were the circumstances under which the decision, if any, was passed. It may be a case where that *kole* owner may not have cultivated his land at all. It may also have been a case where he might have given previous notice of his intention not to cultivate his land to the other owners in the

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same *padavu*. Perhaps under those conditions he may not be liable to contribute anything towards the expenses incurred by the others in draining the *padavu*.

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—What is to be done under such circumstances?

**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—I am going to explain that. The others could exclude the non-co-operators' lands by bunding their own on all the sides where bunds are necessary to do so. It may be a little bit expensive. But it seems to me that they cannot reasonably complain of expense, as it is a necessary burden which every *kole* owner is bound to bear. The relief obtained through the co-operation of his neighbour is only an advantage to which he is not legitimately entitled to secure an advantage; he is not entitled to put compulsion on his neighbour to co-operate. Every land-owner is entitled to say that he is not going to cultivate his lands, and I cannot see how he could be compelled to cultivate them against his wish. Legislation on such a matter is against all principlesof common justice, and it is inexpedient since the cases which may require relief on this account would be very rare.

Then with regard to the other point, namely, storage of water. Two remedial measures are contemplated by the proposed Bill, and both of them have been sufficiently knocked on the head by even the seconder of this Bill. The seconder of the Bill, as well as all the others who followed him, have clearly explained to this House that they are not at all suitable to the practical working of the *kole* lands. If at all, they only fill the cup of miseries which the *kole* lands are alleged to be now labouring under. Most of them, I understand, will be relieved by the *Kuttadan* cultivation that is now becoming popular. Whether it becomes popular or not, my point from the very beginning was that, unless the matter is investigated and found that the existing conditions require legislation, this House should not rush on with legislation. No doubt the Bill may be referred to a Select Committee. But the work of the Select Committee will be confined to certain prescribed limits. They are not to do the work of finding the necessity for legislation. They are not expected to go about the country and ascertain what the conditions are that are now prevailing, what are the remedial measures which are necessary or practicable. These are questions for a preliminary committee to solve. Before they are solved, my view is that no necessity can be said to have been established for introducing this Bill.

**Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—Have the Government the idea of appointing such a committee?

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**Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.**—When the question comes in proper form, it will be answered.

**Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.**—On a point of information. Is it possible for the Select Committee to alter the entire Bill?

**Deputy President.**— Without affecting the principle. Anybody else wishing to speak?

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—The Members who spoke before me have already dealt on the points regarding the nature of *kole* cultivation. Many of the Members, however, may not have understood exactly what it is. To their benefit I shall say a few words regarding the nature of land cultivated and the nature of cultivation.

The Trichur Lake or the *kole* land is an area of about 16,000 acres almost absolutely flat and where the ground level is about 4½ feet below the low water level of the sea; so that, ordinarily, seawater would invade the *kole* lands, if allowed to do so. This will make the soil saltish and unfit for paddy cultivation. In order to prevent this, a bund at Enamakkal was constructed, the function of which is to prevent salt water getting into the *kole* lands. At Enamakkal, is the main opening of the lake into the backwaters connected with the sea.

Now, these *kole* lands again form the drainage basin of about 250 sq. miles of land—a land which enjoys a very heavy rainfall mostly precipitated during the months of June, July and August. A depth of rainfall of about 75 to 80 inches during these months is not by any means uncommon. As the drainage water gets collected in the *kole* lands, the level rises, and it becomes necessary to drain it into the sea. This is also accomplished through Enamakkal weir. So this weir performs two functions, viz., (i) Prevention of ingress of salt water during the cultivation season of February to May and (ii) providing a ventway for the discharge of flood-water.

The cultivation commences by the putting up of bunds in the *kole* lands and balling out of water within these bunds into close-by channels. After the drainage operations, the land is cultivated and the seed sown. The level of water in the channels close to the fields is generally between 4 to 6 feet higher than the field level. This necessitates strong bunds and close supervision. This is a serious cause for disquietude and anxiety for the farmer, as any breach happening to the bund would prove expensive. This vigilance, however, is only required for the first one-and-a-half months, as the level of water in the channels will go down considerably by that time. The harvest is generally over by the 10th of Medam, and as a rule, the yield varies now-a-days between 10

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and twenty-fold. The cost of cultivation is very high, often not very much lower than forty or fifty rupees per acre. Most of the drainage operations are now conducted by means of oil engines, and probably the old historians may not find it so picturesque as of old when the drainage was conducted by means of Persian wheels with men sitting on the top of them singing songs in chorus to ease the burden of work. With the added facilities of drainage, therefore, it is possible to cultivate the entire assigned area of the *kole* lands, which, however, introduced the problem of water supply. In the olden days it was not possible to cultivate the entire area, and the uncultivated portion served as reservoirs from which water could be drawn to the cultivated lands. But at present, such storage is confined only to the *poramboke chals* of an area of about 1,500 acres. At present, the question of drought is the most serious problem in connection with *kole* cultivation. Rainfall statistics show, however, that it is only very rare that there is not about 4 or 5 inches of rain between March and May. If this rainfall is secured, it is certain that the *kole* lands will produce a bumper crop. But if this rainfall fails, drought is almost certain. Statistics show that the years of no rainfall between these months are few and do not occur more than once in seven years. Due to the extreme low elevation of the *kole* lands, the subsoil water level is very high, and the lands require only a very small fraction of water necessary to irrigate an equal area of high level lands. The Kole Committee of 1921 recommended three methods for the prevention of drought in *kole* lands. The chief among them was the diversion of the Chalakkudi river. It is reported now, after investigation, that the Chalakkudi river, unaugmented by storage, may not be able to irrigate the *kole* lands on account of the paucity of water in the river in those months. I am reserving my opinion on this matter, as I have told you already that a much smaller quantity of water than is required for irrigation of high level lands may be found quite sufficient for *kole* lands. And from what I see, I think that diversion of the Chalakkudi river, even if unaugmented by storage, would prove of considerable help for *kole* cultivation. I must look into the question again.

Another solution to the drought problem is the storage of water in the *Mundakan* lands situated on the fringes of the Enamakkal Lake. On account of the short time between the date of harvest of the *Mundakan* crop and the date of final closing of the Enamakkal weir, the prospects of effecting a very large storage are small, unless very heavy machinery is installed. For individual small plots, however, situated in a favourable position, such storage may be of use. Even then, I doubt whether it will

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prove to be an economic proposition. I think many of its sponsors are influenced by the novelty of the method.

Another suggestion the Kole Committee made was to effect storages by having a system of cultivation in rotation. They wanted to keep one-fourth the area of *kole* lands, approximately 4,000 acres, fallow every year. This will of course solve the problem of drought. But at what expense ! Lands which could produce about 6,00,000 *paras* of paddy have thus to be left fallow. I cannot too strongly express my dissent to this proposition.

The floods of 1924 carried away among other things a portion of the Enamakkal Bund, which necessitated its reconstruction. It also gave us an opportunity to consider whether any improvements or alterations to the discharging characteristics of the weir should be effected. It was then decided that it was desirable to lower the flood level of the Lake during monsoon to prevent further damage to the Enamakkal weir, if possible. It was also appreciated that, if this level is reduced, *Kuttadan* cultivation could be promoted in certain portions of the *kole* lands with the result that the water stored in the *Kuttadan* lands could be made available for irrigating the *kole* lands. A new weir was accordingly constructed at Enamakkal, and as expected, the flood level of water was appreciably reduced. The *Kuttadan* cultivation is coming into favour in the area at present, but it must be said that our farmers are still experimenting. I am sure that, from an engineering point of view, I can give the farmers all that they ask for. They have still to experiment on the question of plant diseases, and such other problems more directly connected with the Agricultural Department. If at least a fourth of the area is converted as *Kuttadan* lands, the problem of drought in the *kole* lands will be solved.

The other disabilities, which the *kole* cultivators are labouring under, as stated in the report of the Kole Committee, are superfluity of water during the early stages of cultivation and liability to inundation before harvest. From my experience, I may say that these disabilities do not in reality exist now. I, therefore, think that the Bill, which is now being brought forward by the Member for Jenmies, is one which, if passed, will prove to be of great hardship and loss to the *kole* cultivators. The provisions made in the Bill are mostly unsound from an engineering, agricultural and economic point of view, while the Kole Committees will, I fear, reduce themselves into units, ruling despotically over the *kole* lands interfering with every one's liberty under the guise of common weal. I, therefore, strongly oppose the passing of this Bill.

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Question proposed:—"*That the Cochin Kole Cultivation Bill be read in Council*".

(*Question put and negatived.*)

**Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—A poll, Sir.

The House divided:—Ayes 8, Noes 17 and Neutrals 14.

| *Ayes.* | *Noes.* |
|---|---|
| Messrs. | Messrs. |
| 1 I. E. Ambooken | 1 V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar |
| 2 A. L. Antony | 2 C. V. Antony |
| 3 M. A. Chakko | 3 V. K. Aravindaksha Menon |
| 4 E. Ikkanda Warriar | 4 C. Barton Wright |
| 5 C. A. Kunjunni Raja | 5 K. Govinda Menon |
| 6 C. V. Kuriyan | 6 U. Kandar Menon |
| 7 V. D. Ouseph | 7 P. Krishna Menon |
| 8 A. B. Salem | 8 T. K. Krishna Menon |
| | 9 T. M. Krishna Menon |
| | 10 T. K. Nayar |
| | 11 K. Krishna Pisharodi |
| | 12 Rao Sahib C. Matthai |
| | 13 C. J. Mathew |
| | 14 P. Nilakanta Menon |
| | 15 I. Raman Menon |
| | 16 A. Sankara Menon |
| | 17 Diwan Bahadur V. Verghese |

*Neutrals.*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Mr. K. J. Antony | 8 Mr. A. K. Kunhi Moideen |
| 2 ,, K. Ayyappan | 9 ,, Ouseph P. Kundukulam |
| 3 ,, A. Earchara Menon | 10 Mrs. G. Pavitran |
| 4 ,, A. S. Harihara Ayyar | 11 Mr. M. K. Raman |
| 5 ,, K. P. Kannan Nayar | 12 Dr. A. R. Menon |
| 6 ,, S. S. Koder | 13 Mr. Thomas Manjuran |
| 7 ,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan | 14 Dr. E. A. Veigas |

**Deputy President.**—There is not a 4th party, I believe? You are neutral?

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I was not here when it was discussed. This is a proposition which requires some study, and I cannot say anything now.

**Deputy President.**—So you are neutral.

**Mr. K. Ayyappan.**—Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is the poll correct? There are those who belong to no class. The Hon'ble Member has not stood up when the neutrals were called.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—For the saving of time you may put me as neutral. But I am at liberty to assume my own attitude.

**Deputy President.**—When you are in the Council, you must belong to one of the three.

**Mr. K. Ayyappan.**—The Hon'ble Member did not stand up.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I do not know whether anybody can compel me to stand up.

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**Mr. K. Ayyappan.**—Is he not bound to stand up? I want a ruling.

**Deputy President.**—As a matter of fact, he stood up and said that.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—I shall stand up without anybody's interference.

## Adjournment motion regarding Ernakulam Water Supply.

**Deputy President.**—We shall go on with the next item of business.

**Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.**—The motion to adjourn the business of the Council that is proposed to be moved by me is to discuss this matter, namely, "*the extreme hardship to which the people of Ernakulam town is subjected owing to the introduction of the intermittent system of supplying drinking water recently, the time of introduction of the system being the beginning of hottest months of the year and the time of non-supply being the hottest part of the day*". The question of water supply to the Ernakulam town has been giving a lot of anxiety so far as the Government is concerned. They have been, I am aware, trying their best to solve this problem satisfactorily, and recently during the course of the last one or two years, there have been conferences of the Water Works Engineer, the Chairman of the Mattancheri Municipality and the Chairman of the Ernakulam Municipality and some other leading members with reference to this matter. I do not know the result of those conferences. The only result to my knowledge is the introduction of the intermittent system of water supply. Whether they have arrived at a definite conclusion as to how satisfactorily to supply water to Ernakulam as also to Cochin, I am not in a position to say. But I know this much that, recently from the 12th February, this system has been introduced in this town, and they have cut off supply of water from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. Cutting off supply from 10 a. m. means, we do not get water practically from 9 o'clock.

**Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.**—That is not a fact.

**Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.**—That is a fact. You may say that is not a fact. But I know that, as a matter of experience and even this morning, water in my house began to dwindle after 9 o'clock and before 10 o'clock. Before 10 o'clock it actually stopped. When you say it is not a fact, I am able to contradict you. I know from my own experience; this morning I did not get water before 10 o'clock. Similarly the supply is said to stop at 8 o'clock. It stops some time before. That is practically the result now. Now, the point that I wish to press before this

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